

Our Pioneer Mothers

There were developed in some of the pioneer women of our early days a masculine masterfulness and an audacity which, coupled with natural resourcefulness, carried them through some trying situations in which sheer courage would probably have failed.

Such was the acting spirit of Nancy Van Alstine, a heroine of the Mohawk valley, whose deeds are yet a part of the storied traditions told about the friends of central New York.

Mrs. Van Alstine was born near Can-

field, in 1738, and reared in a community in which Indians were more common than white men. Her father, old Peter Quackenbush, was an Indian trader, and as his supply of goods was seemingly inexhaustible and he carried many things the other Indians did not, the Indians came to half believe what he claimed—that he was under the special care of the Great Spirit.

When she was yet but a roystering, fun-loving girl of eighteen, Nancy Quackenbush was married to Martin J. Van Alstine, and went to live in the old Van Alstine mansion, a few miles from her father's home. Her husband was a prosperous farmer and trader, whose business called him away from home considerable of his time, and so the management of their property at home fell largely to her, and this and the care of the rapidly growing family filled the time of the good woman for many years.



"I DARE YOU TO SHOOT," SHE SAID, LOOKING HIM SQUARELY IN THE EYES.

During the latter part of the war for independence, no section of the country passed through greater vicissitudes than the Mohawk valley, the home of the Quackenbushs. The Indians holding loyalty almost feudal to Sir William Johnson, had been drawn by him to side with the English in the French and Indian war. Dying shortly before the Revolution, Johnson had passed his authority on to his son, Sir John Johnson, and was to live in the old Van Alstine mansion, a few miles from her father's home. Her husband was a prosperous farmer and trader, whose business called him away from home considerable of his time, and so the management of their property at home fell largely to her, and this and the care of the rapidly growing family filled the time of the good woman for many years.

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After Oriskany, in 1777, the Indians of the Mohawk valley had their own revenge to work out, and British agents, stirring up mischief and offering bounties for scalps, kept them in fever heat. From this came the massacres of Wyoming and Cherry valley and German flats, and the devastation of Cobleskill and Schoharie, and eventually led to the driving out of the Iroquois themselves. During 1778 and 1779 the activities of the Indians elsewhere had given the Mohawk valley comparative peace, though the settlers were in constant suspense. In the spring of 1780 the Indians, infuriated by the awful desolation left behind General Sullivan's raid, were eager for retaliation. A little later they were joined by Brant with his renegade Tories and Indians, and the devastation of the Mohawk valley began.

In August a little band of Indians visited the settlement. Mr. Van Alstine and most of the other men were away. The women and children were terror-stricken when word was brought that the Indians were coming. Calling them together Mrs. Van Alstine advised that they all cross over to an island, near the opposite side of the river, which her husband owned, taking such things as they could carry. She knew that the Indians, being a small party, would not remain long and thought that if they

found the houses partially emptied they would be led to think that the settlement had been abandoned. In a short time the seven families comprising the settlement were on the island. Mrs. Van Alstine going last. Barely had they so created themselves when they heard the shouting and soon saw the smoke from their burning homes. The Van Alstine home was the only one left standing, the chief saying: "Let the old wolf keep his den," as Mr. Van Alstine was afterward told by an Indian who had been present and who said that the chief

Some months later three men from Canajoharie, who had deserted from the provincial army and joined the enemy, came back to spy around and report on the condition of their old neighbors. They were caught and hanged as spies, one of them being executed in Van Alstine's orchard. When the spies did not return several Indians were sent to see what had become of them. The Indians changed to reach the settlement the day of the execution and soon the action was reported to Brant, who immediately sent a party to retaliate. They took awful toll. With the exception of the Van Alstine family there was not one that escaped without one or all its members being killed, or wounded or carried away. It was said afterward that Brant had given orders that the Van Alstine house should be spared. If so, that was as far as his protection went.

It was a sorrow-looking house that the Indians left. Windows and with the doors broken down, it was a poor protection for a family almost without clothing or anything to cover them. More than that, there was nothing to eat or any way to get anything. Their few neighbors were still worse off, or those who had not been killed, or carried away were suffering from their wounds. The sufferers were cared for, windows and doors boarded up, and fires built in the chimney places. Mrs. Van Alstine set her children to pounding corn and making samp and cakes that they might be fed. So things went for a day or two, but the good woman was sorely troubled at the lack of clothing. She tried spinning flax mixed with silk of milkweed and weaving it. It was a smooth and serviceable cloth, but it would have taken until the following spring to have clothed the family. Then she became desperate.

When her husband returned she urged that he and the other men who had been robbed join together and make an effort to rescue their property from the Indian castle, a score or so of miles away, where she thought it might have been taken. He thought it impossible. Then she determined to go herself. Taken

Prosecution Expects to Call All Democrats Who Voted for Republican Senator.

CHICAGO, Oct. 1.—When the Lorimer investigating committee adjourned today to reconvene Monday morning, the major part of the witnesses in support of the contention that the election of Senator Lorimer was invalidated by reason of corrupt practice had been heard.

Lee O'Neil Browne, Democratic leader in the house, State Senator John Broderick and Representative Robert Wilson, who have been implicated by witnesses in the alleged bribery of legislators, had not been served with subpoenas to testify before the committee. They were wanted as witnesses in support of the charges of bribery and corruption in the Lorimer election. Attorney Alfred Beckmeyer told the committee that besides these three legislators, all under indictment on charges growing out of the alleged occurrences in the legislature, he expected to have subpoenaed Representatives Jacob Groves and George W. English and to recall Representatives White and Beckmeyer.

Mrs. Charles E. Luke, widow of Representative Luke, also was wanted as a witness. The committee today refused to permit a witness to testify to alleged statements of Representative Luke as to his vote for Senator Lorimer on the ground that it was hearsay.

Mr. Austrian also told Chairman Burrows that he would not summon Governor Deeney to testify except in rebuttal if it was found necessary to summon him at all.

The only witness heard in the afternoon session today, James J. Gray of Cayuga, Representative Beckmeyer's home town, testified that he was asked by Beckmeyer late in July or early in August, 1909, to identify him (Beckmeyer) at a St. Louis bank.

"Beckmeyer wanted to deposit some money in the bank and asked me to identify him," said Gray. "I did so and saw him deposit the money. There was \$300 in \$100 bills."

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ing her son, John, aged sixteen, and their remaining horse, they started. The snow lay deep on the ground, but they finally reached the Indian village and drove to the main house, the castle, where Mrs. Van Alstine knew that she would be apt to find the best of the plunder. The men had all gone on a hunt, and only an old squaw remained. When Mrs. Van Alstine asked for food the squaw hesitated. "No Indian ever came hungry to my house and was refused food," said Mrs. Van Alstine. The squaw suddenly set about preparing some food. The good woman saw her own kitchen utensils brought out for use, and when the Indian woman took a bucket and went for water she gathered up such articles as she recognized, and told her son to put them in their sleigh, which he did. Just then the squaw returned and asked by whose order she had taken the things.

"They are mine," said Mrs. Van Alstine. The Indian woman showed signs of resistance, but Mrs. Van Alstine took from her pocket a paper and handed it to her, saying: "This comes from Yankee Peter, and says for you to give me all my things."

Whatever may have been the virtue of Yankee Peter's name cannot be told at this time, but it proved efficacious.

And Mrs. Van Alstine and her son gathered together many of her articles, including considerable of the family clothing, and put it in their sleigh. Then, going to the stables, she found two of her husband's horses, which she tied behind her sleigh and started for home. The family passed a sleepless night, as it was certain that the Indians would come after the horses, if nothing else.

Sure enough, soon after daylight a little party of Indians appeared in sight. Van Alstine wanted his wife to give the horses up, but she would not "without an argument," as she said, and, telling him to remain in the house while she talked to them, she went. The Indians started first to the stable. She followed, with most of her weeping family behind her.

"What do you want?" she demanded, reaching the stable first and turning around.

"Ugh! Want horses," was the gruff reply.

"Well, you can't have them. They're my horses, and you came and took them without right." She was standing in the middle of the stable door. The Indians approached threateningly and pulled her to one side and then reached for the

A Revolutionary Dame Who Bluffed and Won—Nancy Van Alstine, a Plucky Housewife of the Mohawk Valley, Whose Nerve and Audacity Carried Her Through Several Serious Situations — "White Squaw Make Heap Bad Fight."

BY MARY W. AND HARRY C. GREEN.

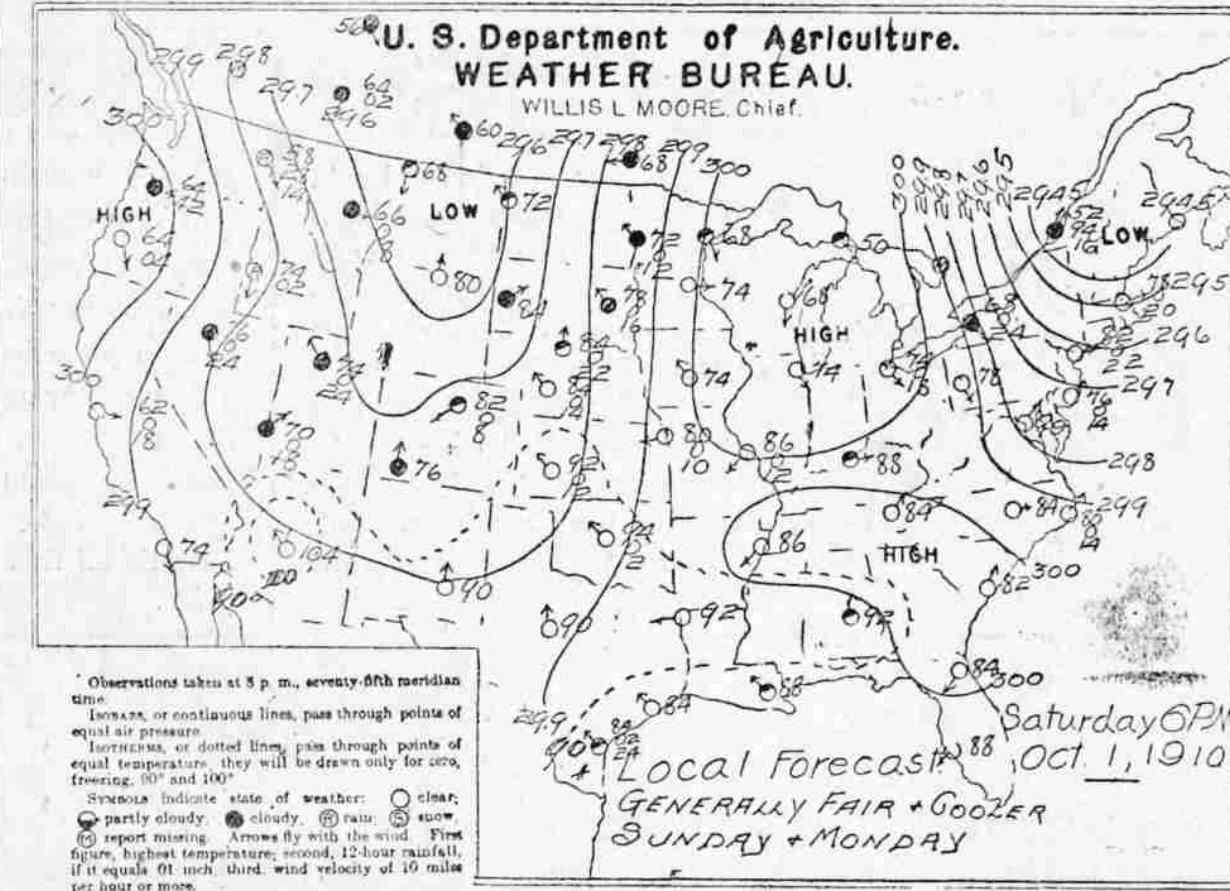
pin that held the door shut. She pushed him away, and when he drew his rifle to his shoulder and was taking aim she said, "I dare you to shoot." Looking him squarely in the eyes. Slowly the gun was let down and he turned to his companion, saying: "The devil is in the old woman." He turned to depart, and the others gave a shout of approbation. On their way back they stopped and told Captain Fry, a Tory neighbor, the story, saying that the white woman's bravery had saved her property and that if there had been fifty men along the Mohawk as brave as the wife of Big Tree (Mr. Van Alstine) the Indians would never have troubled them. He also gave it as his opinion that the "white squaw" would make "a heap bad fight."

Mrs. Van Alstine lived to be the mother of fifteen children, the youngest of whom was born after she was 50 years old. She was 98 years of age when she passed away, a remarkably well preserved and intelligent old lady, loved and honored the whole length of the Mohawk valley. She died and was buried in Wampsville, Madison county, where many of her descendants may be found.

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WEATHER FORECAST FOR SUNDAY

Weather Forecast for Salt Lake City and for Utah: Generally Fair Sunday and Monday; Cooler.



The low that appeared in the northwest Friday over the northern Rocky mountains in the United States and Canada, Sunday evening, having caused general cloudiness in the west and northwest, with showers in Washington, Oregon and Idaho, and with rain still falling at Boise and Spokane at 8 p. m. and Pacific coast states. A high over the eastern Mississippi valley and the great lakes is maintaining fair weather in those states. The eastern low is now pressing up the St. Lawrence valley.

ALFRED H. THIESSEN, Section Director.

WOMAN ENDEAVORS TO STAB JURIST

CHICAGO, Oct. 1.—A woman, thought to be a domestic, attempted to assassinate Judge Frank Baker of the appellate court of Cook county, on the street here today. The jurist escaped unhurt. The woman, Mrs. Elizabeth Burke, aged 45, a seamstress, used a knife with a five-inch blade.

Mrs. Burke was arrested. On her way to the station she screamed and struggled. The policeman could not learn her motive for the attack.

She rushed on Judge Baker as he stepped from his home to the street and sought to plunge the knife into his heart. The jurist grasped her arm and struggled with her until Policeman Sullivan appeared. Judge Baker received no injury, but his assailant's hands were lacerated.

Frank Baker was elected to the bench of the Cook county in the court twenty-three years ago, and served over since. He was assigned to the appellate court six years ago.

In her cell later the woman talked excitedly.

AND NOW DR. COOK IS FOUND ONCE MORE

By Associated Press. NEW YORK, Oct. 1.—Dr. Frederick A. Cook has been found in London, and the World will print tomorrow an extended interview attributed to him, obtained at the British capital. He is reported as saying that he will not prove that he discovered the north pole, and hopes to return to New York shortly.

In London, according to the interview, he occupied a seat in Albert hall last spring and heard Commander Peary lecture before the Royal Geographical society.

"I stood twenty yards from Peary at the time," says the interview, "and none recognized me."

The doctor has made his headquarters in the English capital since last May, taking occasional jaunts to the continent. Most of the time he has had his wife for his companion. His children are in European schools.

Fight to Draw. By Associated Press. NEW ORLEANS, "Harlem" Tommy Murphy of New York and Johnny Frayne of St. Paul, fought a ten-round draw before the New Orleans Athletic club here tonight. The fighting was fast throughout. The men fought at 135 pounds.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT

Record at the local office of the United States weather bureau for the twenty-four hours ending at 6 p. m. Saturday.

Temperature at 6 p. m., 70 degrees; maximum temperature, 74 degrees; minimum temperature, 55 degrees; mean temperature, 64 degrees, which is 6 degrees above normal; total excess since the 1st of the month, 5 degrees; total excess since January 1, 602 degrees.

Precipitation at 6 p. m., a trace; total precipitation since the 1st of the month, a trace, which is .04 inch below normal; total deficiency since January 1, 5.46 inches.

Relative humidity, 28 per cent. The sun rose October 2 at 6:26 a. m. and sets at 6:03 p. m.

WEATHER RECORD.

STATIONS.	Temperature.	Change.	Wind.
SALT LAKE CITY	70	-6	24
Modena	70	-12	22
New York City	70	-12	22
San Francisco	58	-16	18
Winnemucca	68	-8	24
San Diego	68	-8	24
Portland	58	-14	8
Phoenix	74	-20	4
Spokane	68	-14	14
Helena	60	-8	18
Roseburg	60	-16	8
Denver	74	-4	10
Chicago	68	-8	10
Washington	78	-12	4

*Indicates increase in temperature. -Indicates decrease in temperature.

GENERAL FUNSTON SELECTED FOR POST IN PHILIPPINES

By Associated Press. WASHINGTON, Oct. 1.—Brigadier General Frederick Funston has been selected to succeed Brigadier General Ramsey Potts in Luzon next spring, although the orders have not yet been issued.

Major General J. Franklin Bell, who is going to Manila to succeed Major General William P. Dwyall in command of the Philippine division, will sail from San Francisco on December 5 and expects to reach Manila about January 1. The change in command will occur on January 21, General Bell spending the intervening time on an inspection.

Tribune Want Ads. Bell Main 5200. Independent 350.

STANFORD SMITH OF UTAH IN NEW YORK

By Leased Wire to The Tribune. NEW YORK, Oct. 1.—Stanford Smith, fruit grower of Utah, who because of his position when he landed here from England, was taken to the Hotel Bellevue hospital, has moved to the Bloomingdale hotel at White Plains, N. Y.

Physicians at the hospital, Smith is suffering from a slight derangement, which, while it will keep him confined here some time, Mr. Smith is a nephew of C. Keith, president of the company, who lives in New York.

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\$20 values for \$13.35	A big lot of dainty, new panama, silk and serge dresses. All \$20 values for	\$3.00 values for.....
\$25 values for \$16.65		\$4.50 values for.....
\$30 values for \$20.00		\$7.50 values for.....
\$35 values for \$23.35		\$9.00 values for.....
\$40 values for \$26.65		\$12.00 values for.....
		\$15.00 values for.....

Ladies' Beautifully Fashioned Waists	Ladies' New Style Petticoats
\$1.00 values for \$.65	\$1.00 values for.....
\$2.00 values for \$1.35	\$1.75 values for.....
\$2.50 values for \$1.75	\$2.50 values for.....
\$3.00 values for \$2.00	\$3.50 values for.....
\$4.00 values for \$3.65	\$4.00 values for.....
\$6.00 values for \$4.00	\$6.00 values for.....
From \$4 up prices include silk waists.	Prices above \$3.50 silk petticoats.

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